

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08276 261904Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HEW-04 AGRE-00 MED-02 OES-07  
EB-08 CIAE-00 /046 W  
-----128472 270556Z /13  
R 261019Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1824  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8276

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, WHO, IN  
SUBJECT: INDIAN MONKEY EXPORT BAN

REF: (A) GENEVA 7857, (B) GENEVA 6167, (C) NEW DELHI 6245

1. WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION AT THE WHA ON AVAILABILITY OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATES, IT APPEARS TO US IN DELHI THAT OUR EFFORTS TO WORK THROUGH WHO IN PERSUADING INDIA TO REMOVE ITS BAN ON MONKEY EXPORTS HAVE COME TO AN END OF THE LINE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ASSUME THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONSIDERING THE ADVISABILITY OF A DIRECT APPROACH TO THE GOI.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ODDS ARE HEAVILY AGAINST ANY CHANGE IN INDIAN POLICY AS LONG AS MORARJI DESAI IS PRIME MINISTER. ALL OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT HE PERSONALLY ORDERED THE BAN AND HAS BEEN UNRECEPTIVE TO ANY SUBSEQUENT ARGUMENTS AGAINST IT. WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT A BILATERAL APPROACH FROM THE U.S. WILL CHANGE THIS SITUATION, AND CONSEQUENTLY WOULD PREFER THAT THE U.S. NOT INITIATE WHAT PROMISES TO BE A STERILE DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT DURING DESAI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH.

3. IF THE DEPARTMENT NONETHELESS FINDS IT NECESSARY TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08276 261904Z

DISCUSS THE MONKEY BAN, WHETHER BECAUSE OF THE DOMESTIC IMPACT ON THE U.S. OR BECAUSE OF THE INADEQUACY OF OTHER POTENTIAL SOURCES FOR MONKEYS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY APPROACH WHICH HAS ANY CHANCE AT ALL OF INFLUENCING DESAI WOULD BE A PERSONAL APPEAL BY PRESIDENT CARTER DURING DESAI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING APPROACH:

(A) WE REGRET OUR APPARENT MISUSE OF MONKEYS IN THE PAST.

(B) THIS ABRUPT AND TOTAL BAN FACES US WITH A CRISIS.

(C) WE APPRECIATE INDIA'S DESIRE TO GET OUT OF THE MONKEY TRADE.

(D) TO SAFEGUARD THE LIFE AND HEALTH OF MILLIONS OF

CHILDREN WE NEED TIME - SAY FIVE YEARS - TO DEVELOP SUBSTITUTES FOR KEY USES OF RHESUS MONKEYS, E.G. POLIO VACCINE.

(E) WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK OUT SAFEGUARDPROCEDURES - BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL - WITH THE GOI AND TO WORK WITHIN A LOWERED AND DECLINING NUMBER OF MONKEYS, AS PART OF A PHASEOUT PROGRAM.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME OF THE "TALKING POINTS" JUST OUTLINED WILL BE DISTASTEFUL TO THE US SIDE IN THAT WE CONTI

UE TO MAINTAIN PUBLICLY THAT WE HAVE NOT VIOLATED ANY PLEDGES ON MONKEY USE. HOWEVER, IT IS IN OUR VIEW ESSENTIAL TO EXPRESS OUR REGRET OVER WHAT DESAI BELIEVES TO BE OUR TRANSGRESSIONS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A MORAL BASIS FOR OUR REQUEST TO HIM. THE MONKEY EXPORT QUESTION IS LOOKED ON BY DESAI AS A MORAL ONE, AND WE MUST APPROACH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08276 261904Z

IT WITH HIM ON THESE TERMS.

5. SIMILARLY, WE REALIZE THAT THE IDEA OF A PHASING OUT PERIOD FALLS WELL SHORT OF THE IDEAL OUTCOME OUR MONKEY USERS WOULD LIKE. HOWEVER, IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO US THAT DESAI WOULD REVERSE THE BAN ON ANY OTHER BASIS, AND TO ASK FOR AN OPEN-ENDED REVERSAL WOULD IN OUR VIEW GUARANTEE THAT WE GET NOTHING.

6. WE HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF GOING OVER THE GROUND WITH LOWER-RANKING GOI OFFICIALS BEFORE DESAI LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MEA THAT AMBASSADOR PALKHIVALA EXPECTS THE MONKEY ISSUE TO COME UP DURING DESAI'S VISIT. WE ALREADY KNOW HOWEVER THAT THIS ISSUE IS AN INTENSELY PERSONAL ONE FOR MORARJI, AND THAT HE IS UNLIKELY TO BE SWAYED BY FACTS AND STATISTICS. THE ONLY APPROACH THAT COULD HAVE ANY INFLUENCE AT ALL WITH HIM WOULD BE A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE MORAL JUDGMENTS HE RESPECTS. CONSEQUENTLY WE SEE LITTLE POINT IN APPROACHING THE BUREAUCRACY AHEAD OF TIME, AND MUCH MERIT IN RESTRICTING THE DIALOGUE TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS.

GOHEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ANIMALS, EXPORT CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NEWDE08276  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780224-0479  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780514/aaaaalph.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 99d8b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 GENEVA 7857, 78 GENEVA 6167, 78 NEW DELHI 6245  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2550427  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDIAN MONKEY EXPORT BAN  
**TAGS:** TBIO, TPHY, IN, WHO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/99d8b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014